

**Carmel Valley Police Station Open Its Doors**  
**Council President Scott Peters, First District**  
**For the Carmel Valley News, March 2007**

As one of San Diego's newer neighborhoods, Carmel Valley is booming with new homes, parks, schools and public facilities. In the past year and a half, we began work on a new fire station for Pacific Highlands Ranch, planned for a skate park in Carmel Valley and opened the Del Mar Heights Road bridge. This month marks one of the most eagerly anticipated community projects of my time in office, the opening of the Northwestern Police Substation.

Located at El Camino Real and Elijah Court in the heart of Carmel Valley, the 21,000 square foot facility boasts ADA-compliant and energy efficient features and will house 23 sworn police officers serving 31 square miles of Carmel Valley, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Black Mountain Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Pines and Sorrento Valley.

This substation is the culmination of many years of work by the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board and area residents to increase the police presence in this area. Upon my election in 2000 I worked to convince my council colleagues and our public safety officials that preventing and responding to crimes in Carmel Valley and the northern portion of the city should be a high priority. While our previous police chief was unwilling to commit to a new substation to serve this area, Chief Lansdowne shares my priority and committed his officers to the new substation. That promise convinced the Planning Board to devote almost \$20 million in Facilities Benefit Assessment funds to the new facility.

The station will allow police to reduce response times in Carmel Valley and the surrounding areas, a key indicator of appropriate staffing levels. While San Diego has historically served its citizens well with a lower officer-to-resident ratio than other large cities, we must not allow our forces to become spread too thin.

We must also match our commitment to public safety with a meaningful proposal to boost the take-home pay of the fine men and women who serve in our police force. A study commissioned by Mayor Sanders last year confirmed what many of us have suspected for some time; that San Diego Police officers receive some of the lowest take-home pay in the country. This is one of several factors contributing to the loss of over 200 officers in the department over the past several years.

The Mayor and City Council have committed to a pay increase for police officers this year, in addition to the recruitment and retention package implemented last year. It is my hope that this recognition of the excellent service provided by our force will encourage them to join us at the table for a conversation about how to balance the City's need to appropriately compensate its employees with its many other significant financial obligations.

Please join me at the grand opening for the Northwestern Police Substation Thursday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the corner of El Camino Real and Elijah Court in Carmel Valley.